

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: ITEM 2 - ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: THE 25TH SESSION OF THE UNDP GOVERNING OPENED FORMALLY JUNE 12 WITH THE ELECTION OF ITS BUREAU TO BE HEADED BY THE BURUNDI AMBASSADOR TO THE UN ASSISTED BY VICE PRESIDENTS REPRESENTING JAPAN, KUWAIT AND ROMANIA. THE RAPPORTEUR IS FROM MEXICO. THE NEW PRESIDENT DELIVERED A BRIEF BUT SHARP SPEECH CALLING FOR GREATER SUPPORT OF UNDP AND MORE RECOGNITION OF THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD'S POOR. THE AGENDA AND WORK ORGANIZATION WERE APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING IN PLENARY FOR THE FIRST TIME JUNE 12, THE 25TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ELECTED ITS BUREAU CONSISTING OF AMBASSADOR ARTEMON SIMBANANIYE, BURUNDI'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AS PRESIDENT; MINISTER YASUSHI AKASHI OF JAPAN'S PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UN AS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE; AMBASSADOR HASSAN ALI DABBAGH, KUWAITI REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN IN GENEVA AS SECOND VICE
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PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC); AND ROMANIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL ION POPESCU AS THIRD VICE PRESIDENT. MRS. OFELIA REYES RETANA, MINISTER COUNSELLOR OF THE MEXICAN MISSION IN GENEVA, WAS CHOSEN AS RAPPORTEUR.

3. THE NEWLY-ELECTED COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WHO FORMERLY HELD THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, JUSTICE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN BURUNDI, DELIVERED A FORCEFUL ACCEPTANCE SPEECH IN WHICH HE CLAIMED TO SEE NO PROGRESS IN SOLVING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO DEBT BURDENS AND THE GROWING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS. SIMBANANIYE ARGUED THAT BILLIONS ARE SPENT FOR ARMAMENTS WHILE THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND ASIA ARE STARVING AND SICKLY. CASTIGATING THE LACK OF FORESIGHT AMONG SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, HE POINTED TO A GROSS DIVERSION OF MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO MAINTAIN A "BALANCE OF TERROR". THE NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT WHO WILL SERVE FOR ONE YEAR CALLED FOR TANGIBLE EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY AND CONFIDENCE FROM THE DCS IN TERMS OF BETTER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UNDP AND FOR THE SPECIAL FUNDS ESTABLISHED TO AMELIORATE THE EFFECTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

4. FOLLOWING THE SELECTION OF THE BUREAU - ALL MEMBERS OF WHICH WERE CHOSEN BY ACCLAMATION - THE COUNCIL PROCEEDED TO APPROVE UNCHANGED THE AGENDA AND THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK. VANDEN HEUVEL

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